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EO 13526
3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
EO 13526
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3.5(c)

Armando LAMBRUSCHINI
(Phonetic: lahmbroosCHEEnee)

MICROFILMED ARGENTINA

OFFICE OF
CENTRAL REFERENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Commander in Chief of the Navy; Member, Ruling Junta (since September 1978)

Vice Adm. Armando Lambruschini assumed his present positions as Commander of the Navy and the Navy representative to the ruling junta after serving as Chief of the Navy General Staff since 1974. He has been characterized as the alter ego of Adm. Emilio Massera, whom he replaced as Navy Commander and junta member when Massera retired from the service in September 1978. Working together, Massera and Lambruschini, who were classmates at the Navy Academy, kept complete control of the Navy from 1974 to 1978.

Lambruschini has stated in the Argentine press that he intends to follow the policies initiated by Massera in his dealings with the junta. Lambruschini will, for example, continue to insist on maintaining such traditional Navy bailiwicks as the CNEA and on keeping one-third of the junta power vested in the Navy. Massera and Lambruschini differ considerably in personality, however, and there are likely to be changes in the interactions among the junta members.

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He developed polished skills in publicly responding to popular concerns; his speeches, use of "leaked information," travel to Europe and the Mideast, and his contacts with potentially political groups such as labor contributed to his high visibility on the three-man junta. Lambruschini

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will probably be less active in junta policy formulation and more flexible in his relationships with the other junta members.

Early Life and Career

Born in 1924, Armando Lambruschini graduated from the Naval Academy in 1946. A line officer and communications specialist,

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he has an excellent reputation for competence and leadership in staff and command positions. He has held all the key Navy positions, including Commander of the Naval Operating Force in 1973.

Lambruschini visited the United States in 1946 on a midshipman's tour. From 1969 to 1970 he was adviser to the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington, D.C. In the past Lambruschini was strongly pro-United States, but his enthusiasm has cooled in the wake of recent US policies on human rights and arms sales to Argentina.

Lambruschini has traveled widely in Latin America and visited the USSR and Eastern Europe in 1974 as part of an official delegation. In August 1978 he and Massera attended the ninth annual conference of commanders in chief of American navies in Lima, Peru. Lambruschini is mistrustful of Chile and takes a hard line on defense of the Beagle Channel, the disputed territory that lies between Chile and Argentina.

Intelligent and quiet, Lambruschini nevertheless speaks with authority and assurance. Married to the former Gladys Nevares Bestard, he is the father of a daughter. Another daughter was killed at age fifteen in August 1978 by a terrorist bomb planted in the family's apartment.

Lambruschini speaks some English.

21 September 1978

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